

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 026287

NODIS
CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: XGDS 1, 3

TAGS:UR, US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH DOBRYNIN JANUARY 31

AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN CAME IN AT SECRETARY'S REQUEST FOR A REVIEW OF A NUMBER OF ISSUES. SECRETARY GAVE HIM A COPY OF THE PRESIDENT'S 1/25 LETTER TO BREZHNEV. THE MOST IMPORTANT POINTS THAT EMERGED IN THE DISCUSSION WERE AS FOLLOWS:

1. PNG EXCHANGE: DOBRYNIN CONTINUES TO FEEL THAT OUR EXPULSION OF AVDYUNIN WAS AN UNWARRANTED PROVOCATION, ALTHOUGH HE DECLINES TO REVIEW THE EVIDENCE, BUT HE AGREED WITH SECRETARY THAT SUCH MATTERS SHOULD BE HANDLED IN THE FUTURE WITH RESTRAINT AND A MINIMUM OF PUBLICITY.
2. HORN: SECRETARY REPEATED OUR INTEREST IN ELICITING SOVIET IDEAS ON HOW WE COULD ADVANCE THE PROSPECT FOR A CEASE-FIRE AND A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, AND EXPRESSED
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STRONGLY OUR CONCERN AT THE BUILD-UP OF SOVIET SHIPS IN THE RED SEA AND THE INDIAN OCEAN. SECRETARY SAID THIS WOULD BE A PROVOCATIVE FACTOR THAT WOULD MAKE NEGOTIATIONS MORE DIFFICULT. DOBRYNIN SAID HE UNDERSTOOD AND WOULD COMMUNICATE OUR CONCERN TO MOSCOW.

3. SALT: SECRETARY TOLD DOBRYNIN WE WOULD SOON BE SUPPLYING HIM WITH A LIST OF POINTS CONCERNING BACKFIRE ON WHICH WE WILL REQUIRE SPECIFIC CLARIFICATIONS.

4. MISCELLANEOUS:

A. DOBRYNIN SAID BREZHNEV WAS NOW RECOVERED AND BACK AT WORK. HE ALSO REPORTED THAT GROMYKO WAS TAKING A TWO-WEEK VACATION NOT FAR FROM MOSCOW.

B. SECRETARY TOLD DOBRYNIN HE WOULD REPORT THE RESULTS OF THE SADAT VISIT AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

C. SECRETARY EXPRESSED REGRET OVER THE INCIDENT IN LOS ANGELES, IN WHICH A MEMBER OF THE PONOMAREV GROUP WAS SPLATTERED BY A DEMONSTRATOR. DOBRYNIN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION, AND SAID HE WOULD COMMUNICATE THIS TO PONOMAREV, WHOM HE IS SEEING IN NEW YORK ON WEDNESDAY.

D. DOBRYNIN ASKED US TO REVIEW RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN BELGRADE, WHERE HE SAID THE LEVEL OF POLEMICS WAS OF CONCERN. VANCE

SECRET

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